

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

This meeting is being held in person adhering to the CDC guidelines and through a virtual meeting platform called ZOOM. The public who attended through ZOOM has been notified and instructed on how to join the meeting and participate during the public session.

Mayor Sowden called the meeting to order and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Postas

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall and printed in the New Jersey Herald/Sunday New Jersey Herald on January 6, 2023, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

Historic State (SHPO) Presentation – Secretary of Interior’s Standards.

Erin Frederickson and Meghan Baratta from the State Historic Preservation Office discussed different options for the rehabilitation of the Hungarian Church/Edison School House. Ms. Frederickson commented that the siding elements should be retained as much as possible.

Mr. Crabb, Historical Preservation Commission Chairman, asked what materials could be used for the roof of the building and requirements for applying for Grants.

Ms. Frederickson replied synthetic materials can be used according to Franklin’s Historical Commission and local ordinances, but recommends reviewing the Secretary of Interior’s Standards and you can also seek guidance from the State’s Historic Trust. They are always available to help with questions.

Mayor Sowden commented that state funding wouldn’t be offered until designated as a Historic Preservation building.

Ms. Frederickson commented applications are open now, You can apply without being listed on the New Jersey Register but then you would need to be in order to be reimbursed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger commented that there are public safety items on the agenda.

Mr. Formica commented that buildings and grounds met to try and get a couple of things going. We are looking into some past ordinances and past projects. The ordinance committee met today regarding the towing ordinance.

Mr. Snyder commented that a finance committee meeting needs to be set up regarding the budget.

Mrs. Tremont commented that she and Michelle (the CFO) will be meeting on Monday to discuss the budget and then setting up a finance meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Snyder commented that a personnel meeting needs to be set up.

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Mrs. Tremont commented that she is still working on obtaining the services for a QPA. As far as the finance committee for the budget meeting, after that I did speak to Michelle and she would like to have a workshop meeting with the full council on March 15, 2023. The lifeguard ad has been placed and we have received no applicants as of yet.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that a decision needs to be made as to whether or not we want to move forward with historic preservation and funding or just repair the Hungarian Church/Edison School House.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Snyder made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka commented that the sign by the viaduct is beautiful. The historic preservation for the building will be a church or a school.

Mayor Sowden commented that it will be more of an activity center.

Ms. Tatka asked if a grant was applied for regarding the algae issue at the pond, where the funds were coming from for the water tower project, the police hires and asked if Franklin applied for grant money through the Highlands Council.

Mr. Ursin explained the Highlands process and stated that the process was started but not completed yet.

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sowden requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Borough of Ogdensburg Resolution 22-2023 endorsing New Jersey State Legislation S1727/A3393 designating Franklinite as the official mineral of the State of NJ.
2. Board of County Commissioners resolution in re: 2023 Board of County Commissioners Municipal Liaisons.
3. Borough of Hamburg stormwater management plan

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – January 23, 2023 – January 27, 2023
2. DPW Report – January 30, 2023 – February 4, 2023
3. Police Department Report – January 2023

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2023-43 to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,600.00
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 28, 2023.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 28, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

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OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 14, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-38

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-38 approving a property tax refund due to a tax overpayment for property located at Block 2801 Lot 9 in the amount of \$2,418.57. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-39

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-39 approving a property tax refund due to a tax overpayment for property located at Block 2101 Lot 16 in the amount of \$4,448.25 for 2022 and \$2,920.17 for 2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: Formica

Resolution #2023-40

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-40 to approve awarding a contract to Allied Painting, Inc. for tank maintenance Franklin Meadows Waterspheroid in the amount of \$999,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-41

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-41 to approve the Governor's Council on alcoholism and drug abuse fiscal grant cycle FY2024. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-42

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-42 to approve authorizing a refund of an escrow for road opening permits in the amount of \$16,184.46. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #02-2023

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt ordinance 02-2023 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$494,140.25 THEREFOR FROM GRANT PROCEEDS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE

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PLAN TO PAY FOR A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 02-2023.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 02-2023, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked how much of this is a grant and how much the town has to put in.

There being no else present or on Zoom who wished to address to governing body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 02-2023, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance #03-2023

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 03-2023 entitled "SETTING RANGE FOR SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the Public Hearing is to be held March 14, 2023.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Planning Board

James Nidelko Member (Class IV) (4-yr. unexpired term)

Expires 12/31/2025

Mr. Limon made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment to the planning board. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve extending a conditional offer to (2) two Police Officer candidates recommended in the Police Chief's February 23, 2023 letter. (Letter provided to Council via email) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mr. Limon commented if residency requirements were met.

Mr. Skellenger commented that no residents applied.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Skellenger

Nays: Limon Absent: Postas Abstentions: Snyder

National Poison Prevention Week

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve a proclamation proclaiming the third full week March 19th–25th, 2023, to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW). Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Discussion on Zoom Meetings

The current ZOOM plan expires on March 31, 2023.

Mrs. Tremont commented that there are options that we can do. We can use meetings or meetings and webinar; just to be aware the webinar price has increased.

Mr. Limon made a motion to continue with ZOOM using the meetings portion at a cost of \$149.90 per year. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mrs. Heath made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss potential litigation matters. Motion seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mayor Sowden commented that there will be no official action taken after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:01pm, the Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session and did not return into open public session.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk